



# National Fire Plan

## Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



## FY 2002 Programs in Ohio



In August 2000, the President directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a plan to respond to severe wildland fires, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and assure sufficient firefighting capacity in the future. The National Fire Plan (NFP) was developed and addresses 5 key points:

- Firefighting;
- Rehabilitation and Restoration;
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction;
- Community Assistance; and,
- Accountability.

The USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior are in the second year of implementing the National Fire Plan, with allocations to Ohio estimated at:

### USDA Forest Service Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research R&D JFSP	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance			Total
Preparedness	Facilities					State Fire Assist	Volunteer Fire Assist	Economic Action Programs	
568,981	0	0	22,000	0	0	460,970	243,144	0	1,295,095

\*Allocations for FY 2001 and 2002 may vary slightly over time due to adjustments in accounting systems.

### Department of the Interior Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research JFSP	Community Assistance Rural Fire Assist	Total
Preparedness	Facilities					
1,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	4,000

### Program Highlights

- Upper Muskingum- The integrated Upper Muskingum Initiative entered its second year of activity in east-central Ohio. It includes urban forestry, forest health, cooperative fire, and economic action components. Comprehensive surveys, brochures and a website were developed to address Asian Longhorned Beetle; and fuel reduction helped Volunteer Fire Departments reduce ISO ratings, in turn reducing homeowner insurance costs.

- Cooperative Fire Protection- Through the Upper Muskingum Initiative an Insurance Services Office (ISO) study was completed for 8 fire departments in Holmes County. Results from this study will assist the community in selecting projects to reduce hazard ratings, increase water supply, allowing homeowners to purchase fire insurance.
- Economic Action Programs- A forest products marketing outreach program was started for industry and forestland owners in southern Ohio to improve the competitiveness of small/medium forest-based businesses in southern Ohio.

## Rehabilitation and Restoration

*Rehabilitate fire damaged wildlands and restore ecosystem*

- Rehabilitation and Restoration program consists of
  1. Immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and
  2. Long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring);
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restoring severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

## Hazardous Fuel Reduction

*Invest in projects to reduce fire risk with focused effort in wildland urban interface areas.*

- Approximately 102 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies; an estimated 32 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- An estimated \$25,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

## Community Assistance

*Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire*

States are focusing funding on increasing wildland fire response capacity by enhancing their level of fire preparedness, training wildland firefighters, purchasing personal protective equipment, conducting fire education and prevention activities including Firewise projects; implementing hazard mitigation projects addressing fuel reduction and installation of dry hydrants, and fire planning projects assessing communities at risk

- 3 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$460,970.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$243,144.

## Accountability

*Establish and maintain a high level of accountability including oversight reviews, progress tracking and performance*

*monitoring*

- DOI and Forest Service are developing a uniform set of performance measures necessary to assess program effectiveness these measures will be tracked through a common electronic database by the end of the FY02.
- DOI and Forest Service have developed a uniform process and timeline to identify and complete planning on fuels treatment projects.
- A DOI and Forest Service contracting review has been completed and actions will be initiated to increase the level of contracts for fuels hazard reduction work.

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